Wheeler & Co. on newly constructed platforms No. 6 and 7 at Guwahati, if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the North Frontier Railway did not call applications to allot book stalls to the unemployed graduates on those platforms?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) After extension of broad gauge to Guwahati, in February, 1985, M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. (P) Ltd., were permitted to shift their bookstalls from Kamakhya station to platforms No. 6-7 of Guwahati railway station on the consideration that certain important Metre Gauge trains, from and to Guwahati which were converted into Broad Gauge trains, were being dealt with on platforms No. 6-7, and it was felt that experienced bookstall contractor should continue to provide service on these trains. The matter was reviewed in February, 1986 and the Railway was asked to allot the bookstall on platforms No. 6-7 at Guwahati to the eligible categories as per the extant procedure.

Monopoly rights of M/s. Wheeler & Co.

214. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Wheeler & Co are rendering satisfactory performance through five book stalls on platforms numbers 1 to 19 at Delhi Junction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per special sole selling rights M/s. Wheeler & Co. is authorised to set up more bookstalls on vacant platforms/ waiting halls/circulating area at Delhi and other stations; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to curtail sole selling rights of these contractors to break monopoly as has been published in the Evening News of the 'Hindustan Times' of the 13th February, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. They are able to meet the demands of passengers through stalls, tables and trolleys.

(b) No additional bookstall at any place can be set up by M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. without prior permission from Railways.

(c) Sole selling right clause is an integral part of the current agreement.

Action on memorandum against M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co.

215. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI HASHIM RAZA ABIDI ALLAHABADI:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 355 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1986 and state:

(a) what action has been taken on the memorandum regarding taking over of book stalls of M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co.;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government for providing employment to unemployed graduates through book stalls from 1973 on those stations where major contractors exist, except newly constructed passenger platform, if any, detailed thereof; and

(c) what are the special reasons for providing sole selling right clause in the